

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A casing for an electrochemical cells battery, comprising:
 - a) a rigid structural shell made of reinforced plastic or polymer material, said structural shell having four sides and an end portion, an outer surface and an inner surface, said structural shell being made of a molded plastic or polymer material reinforced with a plurality of discrete metallic flat portions embedded in said outer surface of said structural shell, said inner surface defining a void area suitable for containing an electrochemical cells battery, some of the discrete metallic flat portions being orthogonally interconnected to simultaneously reinforce a plurality of sides and the end portion of the rigid structural shell that cooperate with the reinforced plastic or polymer material to form a reinforcement wall at the end portion of the rigid structural shell;
 - b) an inner lining substantially impervious to oxygen and humidity, said inner lining including at least one layer of synthetic material joined onto said inner surface of said structural shell; and
 - c) said casing having an aperture opening into said void area for receiving the electrochemical cells battery, and an end cover mounted to said structural shell for closing said aperture such that said electrochemical cells battery is sealed inside the casing.
2. **(Original)** A casing as defined in claim 1, wherein said inner lining comprises a laminate of at least two layers of materials.
3. **(Original)** A casing as defined in claim 2, wherein said laminate comprises at least two layers of synthetic materials.

4. **(Original)** A casing as defined in claim 2, wherein said laminate comprises a layer of synthetic material and a layer of metallic material.
- 5.-6. **(Canceled)**
7. **(Previously Presented)** A casing as defined in claim 1, wherein said structural shell is made of a molded plastic or polymer material reinforced with carbon or glass additives.
8. **(Canceled)**
9. **(Currently Amended)** A casing as defined in claim 1, wherein said plurality of discrete metallic portions and said plastic material are molded together.
10. **(Canceled)**
11. **(Previously Presented)** A casing as defined in claim 1, wherein said plurality of discrete metallic portions are mated to said plastic material by a plurality of fasteners, each fastener including a recess formed on one of said discrete metallic portion and said plastic material and a mating projection formed on the other of said discrete metallic portion and said plastic material.
12. **(Original)** A casing as defined in claim 11, wherein the recess of each fastener is defined by a perforation in one of said discrete metallic portions, the mating projection of each fastener being formed by said plastic material filling at least in part the perforation.
13. **(Original)** A casing as defined in claim 12, wherein the mating projection of each fastener has an enlarged head to prevent separation of the mating projection and the corresponding recess of the fastener.
14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Previously Presented)** A casing as defined in claim 1, wherein said end cover is affixed to said structural shell by a welding operation selected from the group consisting of vibration welding, induction welding, ultrasonic welding, and laser welding.
16. **(Previously Presented)** A casing as defined in claim 1, wherein said end cover includes at least one electrical connector for connecting the energy storage device inside said casing to a remote device.
17. **(Previously Presented)** A casing as defined in claim 1, wherein said end cover includes a reinforcement metallic portion lined at least in part with a synthetic material.
18. **(Currently Amended)** A casing as defined in claim 1, wherein said structural shell is made of a material selected from the group consisting of polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyamide, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), combinations thereof, and PolyPhenylene Ether and Polystyrene blend (PPE+PS).
19. **(Original)** A casing as defined in claim 1, wherein said structural shell is made of thermoset material selected from the group consisting of epoxy and urethane or combinations thereof.
20. **(Original)** An energy storage device comprising the casing defined in claim 1.
- 21-23 **(Canceled)**.